4/8/82

Dear Harold,

Just wanted to drop you a note to let you know I'm still alive & well here in the land of Three Mile Island & to bring you up to date on what's been happening.

I finally have a permanent job for after my internship and things could not have worked out better. All along I had hoped to land a job in labor relations, but with all the cutbacks going on it didnt look as though any positions would be available in that area. For a while I was beginning to think I might be out of a job altogether come June 30. When job openings finally started coming in, most were things like Systems Analyst or Budget Analyst - not bad jobs in terms of advancement potential, but not what I wanted. Finally, at the last minute, one opening turned up in labor relations, & it was an ideal job at that. Seven of the interns interviewed for it and, after 2 weeks of torture waiting for a decision to be made, I got a call offering me the job. It's just what I was looking for, and I think it will be a tremendous boost to my career. I'll be working in the Grievance Section of the Governor's Office of Labor Relations, doing a variety of things from investigating & resolving grievances to preparing & presenting arbitration cases. I'll also be working

with the legal staff on Unfair Labor Practice cases as well as participating in negotiations. Eventually, I'll also be teaching courses in labor relations to Commonwealth supervisors & managers. While I won't officially begin the job until July 1, I'll actually be spending the remainder of the internship working in the Bureau &, although I'll still have some obligations to the internship program, for the most part I'll be working in my new job. I'm really excited about it because I think it will be a valuable background for a career in labor law. Now all I have to do is figure out a way to attend law school part-time. Where there's a will there's a way! I'm really looking forward to finally doing some interesting work. The internship, to say the least, has not been challenging. Just to keep my mind from vegetating, I've been taking accounting at nearby Elizabethtown College. Not the most thrilling subject, but one which I think will come in handy. (Besides, now that Alex has passed the C.P.A. exam, I can at least "communicate" with him in his own language!)

Naturally, I'm a bit disappointed I couldn't get this kind of a job in Pittsburgh. Homestead Borough made me a formal job offer but, after alot of thinking & talking it over, I turned them

down. It was a difficult decision because I had to say no to some good friends on council & I guess I felt a bit like I was letting them down. However, the more I looked at the Borough Manager's job, the more I realized it was a dead-end position. There was no room for advancement within the Borough & , if I wanted to remain in that field , I would have to be willing to relocate anywhere in the country. Besides, Homestead is in such bad financial condition, it would be fighting a losing battle. The Steel Mills are closing down. & , in the not too distant future, Homestead may be a ghost town. Even Alex told me I'd be throwing away a chance at a successful career if I took the Homestead job. Everyone was disappointed that I wouldn't be moving back home, but I think I made the right decision. Anyway, I guess I'm becoming accustomed to Harrisburg & , after finally getting my apartment the way I want it, I wasn't looking forward to packing up & moving again. One of the good things about the job I took is that, if at some point I want to get out of state government or move on to something else, I'll have experience in an area that can be transferred to another level of government or to the private sector. Being a Borough Manager wouldn't give me that option.

Not much else new with me, although I have

Some good news about Mary you & Lil might like to know. She had a beautiful baby girl on March 27 th. 7 lb. 14 ounces, named Erin Kathleen. True to form, Mary was 2 weeks late. I had made plans to drive home the weekend of the 27th, thinking I would be able to see a 2 week old baby, but when I got in late on the 26th there was still no sign of anything happening. In fact, Mary & I made plans to go out for lunch on the 27th. Well, about 6:00 AM I got a call from the hospital. Mary had gone into labor about 2:00 AM. They ended up having to do a cesarean, but Mary & the baby are both doing great. I'm going home over Easter for the Baptism on Easter Sunday - I'm going to be Godmother. Already I've gone nuts buying things for the baby - I think "aunt" Karen is going to spoil her godchild!

Well, I have to get back to work. I hope everything is going well for you & Lil. Now that the weather is getting better, I hope to get down to see you. I have a good friend in D.C. & will be visiting him as soon as we can get our schedules together. We're having trouble finding a weekend that we're both free. Whenever we work something out I'll let you know, so I can stop by on my way through Frederick. Until then, take care.

My Best,
Karen